IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Applicant:

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SIR:

In accordance with 37 CFR §§1.97, 1.98, Applicants and the undersigned attorney hereby submit the accompanying form PTO/SB/08A and the foreign references listed thereon, if any.

The references cited on form PTO/SB/08A were first referenced in a European Search Report completed on February 3, 2004, copy enclosed.

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)

Applicants hereby certify, as is required under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c)(1) and §1.97(e), that each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement is submitted prior to receipt of a First Office Action on the merits and thus no fee is due for consideration of this document.

The undersigned also points out that the submission of these documents is neither a concession nor admission that the documents qualify as prior art for this application under the patent laws of the United States. Applicants reserve the right to challenge the status of any such document that the office determines to be prior art.

Date:

Respectfully submitted,

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PTO/SB/08A (08-03)

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Complete if Known Substitute for form 1449/PTO Application Number Not Yet Assigned Filing Date Herewith INFORMATION DISCLOSURE First Named Inventor Ayumi Senda STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Art Unit Not Yet Assigned (Use as many sheets as necessary) Examiner Name Not Yet Assigned 075834.00453 Sheet 1 Attorney Docket Number

| | U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No.1 | Document Number | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant | | | |
| | | Number-Kind Code ^{2 (# known)} | | | Figures Appear | | | |
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| | | JP3-270030 | 12/02/1991 | YOSHIDA IKUO | | | | | |
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